

Town of Knox

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting

February 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present on this date:

- Supervisor Lefkaditis
- Councilman Barber
- Councilman Barcomb
- Councilman Pritchard
- Councilman Saddlemire
- Town Superintendent of Highways Salisbury
- Town Clerk Traci Schanz
- Rob Stout: Legal counsel from Whiteman Osterman & Hanna, LLP

Immediately after the Pledge, Supervisor Lefkaditis turned the floor over to Councilman Barber where he unveiled the new town seal that will now hang in the Town Hall in the large gathering space/courtroom.

Supervisor Lefkaditis then explained to the public that there would be no discussion regarding the Public Hearing for local law number one for 2018, regarding the attendance for Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members, due to an error in language submitted to the Altamont Enterprise. The Hearing will now be held in March.

Supervisor Lefkaditis began the meeting by asking for liaison reports. Supervisor Lefkaditis reports that he attended the Planning Board meeting where a discussion was held regarding a small subdivision of 9 lots on Bell Road. This is still very preliminary and there was nothing new to report. No other Board members had reports to share.

There was a brief discussion regarding a recent incident at the transfer station. Supervisor Lefkaditis commended the workers at the transfer station, stating Joe Adriance had called the Supervisor regarding the incident, everyone worked together to get people to safety and close the street. The Knox Fire Department, Albany County Sherriff's Department, including the bomb squad all responded quickly, and he is pleased with the outcome. Councilman Saddlemire, also a volunteer firefighter, continuously updated board members via text messages. Supervisor Lyons from the Town of Berne had also called to offer any assistance possible, and Supervisor Lefkaditis thanks him also.

There was a brief discussion regarding the granting of a special use permit to the Foxenkill Tavern from the ZBA in January. The owner of the Foxenkill, Chris Shoemaker has asked that the required 30-day notice be waived by the Town so that he does not have to wait the full 30 days to apply for his liquor license from the State Liquor Authority. Supervisor Lefkaditis and Rob Stout drafted a letter to send to the Authority.

RESOLUTION 46-2018 – A motion was made by Councilman Barber and seconded by Councilman Barcomb authorizing the Supervisor to execute a 30-day notice waiver for the Foxenkill, LLC to be sent to the State Liquor Authority immediately. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the 30-day waiver letter for Foxenkill, LLC to be executed and mailed to the State Liquor Authority by Supervisor Lefkaditis.

There was a brief discussion regarding the request of Emma Detlefsen and her mother to change the lights outside the Town Hall to teal green in honor of National Lymphedema Awareness Day on March 6, 2018. All Board members agreed to change the lights outside the Town Hall to teal for the week of March 5-March 11, 2018.

RESOLUTION 47-2018- A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2018 Board Minutes and seconded by Councilman Barcomb. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2018 Board Meeting.

A brief discussion was held regarding congratulations to the Youth Council on the success of the Winterfest. Attendance was estimated to be between 130-150 children, and close to 200 people including adults. The cardboard sleds were a fantastic hit, and Supervisor Lefkaditis thanked Maryellen Gillis and the entire Youth Council for their hard work. It was a great success.

A discussion was held between Superintendent of Highways Gary Salisbury and the Board members regarding current issues with trucks breaking down. It is recommended to trade in the current truck discussed at the last board meeting, along with a truck that is currently broke down to receive two brand new trucks, two brand new plows and two brand new sanders for the cost of approximately \$26,000.00 per truck.

RESOLUTION 48-2018- A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis and seconded by Councilman Barcomb, authorizing the Highway Superintendent to trade the Town's 2013 Chevy 3500 pick-up truck, the Town's 2016 Chevy 3500 dump truck, plus monies not to exceed \$5600.00 for a 2018 Chevy dump truck with plow and sander. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the Highway Superintendent to trade the Town's 2013 Chevy 3500 pick-up truck, the Town's 2016 Chevy 3500 dump truck, plus monies not to exceed \$5600.00 for a 2018 Chevy dump truck with plow and sander.

RESOLUTION 49-2018- A motion was made by Councilman Barber and seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to approve the Highway Superintendent Gary Salisbury to make upgrades to his office, not to exceed \$1000.00. Upon request of Councilman Saddlemire asking Councilman Barber to revise his motion not to exceed \$1200.00, this revised motion was then seconded by Councilman Barcomb. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the Highway Superintendent Gary Salisbury to make upgrades to his office, not to exceed \$1200.00.

The facilities walk-through was re-scheduled to February 20, 2018, at noon consisting of the Transfer Station only at this time.

Councilman Saddlemire gave an update on the Communities Clean Energy Grant. Each member of the board as well as legal counsel was asked to look over the contract application and scope of the project.

All members and legal counsel will receive copies via email. Supervisor Lefkaditis ask that everyone look at it by the facility walk-through scheduled on the 20th of February and vote on it then as it is a public meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the heating/cooling system in the Town Hall. Mr. John Dewey looked at the system and determined that the dampeners do not have actuators and outside air is not being used properly to heat and cool the building. Supervisor Lefkaditis asked all Board members if they were comfortable having Mr. Dewey come back to give an estimate for fixing duct work and air flow to the building. All members agreed to the estimate.

RESOLUTION 50-2018- A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire and seconded by Councilman Barcomb to enter into a service agreement with Mr. John Dewey for preventative maintenance for mechanical repair as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to enter into a service agreement with Mr. John Dewey for preventative maintenance for mechanical repair.

RESOLUTION 51-2018- A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard and seconded by Councilman Barber authorizing the Supervisor to enter into a maintenance agreement with MILTON CAT for the Town Hall generator not to exceed \$936.00/year. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to enter into a maintenance agreement with MILTON CAT for the Town Hall generator not to exceed \$936.00/year.

A discussion was held regarding the Blight Law. Councilman Pritchard voiced his concerns regarding his concerns with how the law was worded. Councilman Pritchard would like to see some of the wording changed. Councilman Barcomb would like to focus on vacant properties. All Board members agree that vacant properties and dangerous properties need to be addressed. Mr. Stout stated that the current law does not omit owner occupied properties, but a simple change to the wording could correct this issue. Several properties have been sited over the past year, and several Board members wonder if this is more of an enforcement issue, rather than the need for a local law. Councilman Barcomb asked if a registry of vacant properties would be helpful to the Town as well as the Fire Department. Mr. Stout will work on softening of the language of the Blight Law as well as focus on vacant and dangerous properties and will submit a draft to the Board that will be discussed at the March Board meeting with a possible Public hearing in April.

Vince Virano asked a question regarding the setback requirements for 144sq.ft. building. Supervisor Lefkaditis was unsure but said he would check into this as well as speak to the Building Department Zoning Administrator.

Discussion was held regarding the business district of routes 156/157 that was voted down twice in October and November of 2017. Supervisor Lefkaditis asked the Board if they would be comfortable re-publicizing the Public Hearing. Councilman Barcomb stated after speaking with people in that area, he sensed that these residents did not want the zoning changed and this was his reason for voting the way he did previously. Letters will be sent to land owners in this area notifying them of the hearing and possible change in zoning ordinance. A draft letter will be created by Mr. Stout and emailed to Supervisor Lefkaditis by April 1, 2018.

RESOLUTION 52-2018- A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis to re-publicize the Public Hearing to consider the re-districting of the area of routes 156 & 157 intersection and seconded by Councilman Pritchard.

The vote was 4 YES and 1 NAY, with Councilman Barcomb voting NAY. The motion carried.

RESOLVED: to re-publicize the Public Hearing to consider the re-districting of the area of routes 156 & 157 intersection

There was a discussion regarding the letter from the planning board regarding another business district on route 146. The planning board would like a little bit more time to hold public informational meetings. The Board agreed to give the Planning Board more time and this will be discussed at a future Town Board meeting.

The Board discussed the necessity of holding a "Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment" training class required by the insurance underwriters, as well as create a seatbelt policy, and the suggestion of a non-mandatory panic button in the meeting hall/court room. The question was raised about completing the workplace violence and sexual harassment training on-line due to scheduling difficulties. Supervisor Lefkaditis will be checking into the possibility of individuals completing the training on-line.

RESOLUTION 53-2018- A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis and seconded by Councilman Pritchard to change insurance companies to PERMA for workers compensation beginning June 1, 2018 for that fiscal year at a rate not to exceed \$34,000.00 per year. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to use PERMA for the workers compensation policy for the fiscal year 2018 at a rate not to exceed \$34,000.00 per year.

RESOLUTION 54-2018- Supervisor Lefkaditis made a motion to change brokers from Wright Public Entity to Marshall Sterling, and specifically, agent Ken Gray. This motion was seconded by Councilman Saddlemire. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: To use agent Ken Gray from Marshall Sterling as the broker for workers compensation for the Town.

The next discussion held was regarding a cookout for the volunteers of the Town. The event will be family oriented and will be held on September 8th, 2018. Anyone can email the Supervisor or Clerk with volunteers that they would like to be invited. An additional note was made that the Town Calendar is up to date without a delay in posting events. An audience member, Joan Adriance recommended additional postings of events on the Town sign for those who may not have access to the internet and therefore wouldn't be able to see items posted on the web page.

Supervisor Lefkaditis remembered to discuss a property that is a non-conforming lot that a resident would like to purchase. The resident would like to approach the County with the support of the Board. Legal Counsel recommends that the Town may express an opinion regarding the property but does not create the appearance that the Board may be influencing the ZBA to act in a certain way. Legal counsel suggests it would be in the Town's best interest to let the ZBA handle the situation, making it clear that there was no bias in their decision. Councilman Saddlemire recommends the resident approach the County independent and depending on the outcome, and if necessary the Town could then possibly offer support. The Board agrees that this is a good compromise.

There are currently four, possibly six applicants for the Dog Catcher position. There is also some interest from Westerlo to use the facilities. Supervisor will be working on this request within the next few weeks. The building of the kennel is falling in line with the intent it was built for. Supervisor Lefkaditis will update Board members if anything else should come about.

Councilman Barber requested the help of the Board to assist the Knox Historical Society in becoming a Permanent Charter. The New York State Educational Department requires the Knox Historical Society to have a lease agreement stating that the Society can use the current building as long as it is not dissolved. Legal counsel will create a lease containing a termination clause with 30-day notice.

Supervisor Lefkaditis spoke about the 11 open positions within the Town. There are approximately 30 applicants. Supervisor Lefkaditis would like the Board to decide how interviews and scheduling of interviews will be handled. Sub-committees were created for interviewing for the Dog Control Officer position as well as for the Park Laborer. The sub-committee for the DCO will consist of Supervisor

Lefkaditis and Councilman Barber. The sub-committee for the Park Laborer will consist of Superintendent of Highways Salisbury, Councilman Pritchard and Councilman Saddlemire. The sub-committees will interview candidates and report back to all members. A deadline for all positions was created and will be February 23, 2018.

RESOLUTION 55-2018- Councilman Barcomb made a motion to re-appoint Val Pullium to the Board of Assessment Review, seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis, with the term 9/2017-8/31/2022. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: To re-appoint Val Pullium to the Board of Assessment Review, with the term 9/2017-8/31/2022.

RESOLUTION 56-2018- Councilman Barcomb made a motion to re-appoint Kevin Sherman to the Board of CAC for a two-year term, seconded by Councilman Barber. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: To re-appoint Kevin Sherman to the Board of CAC for a two-year term.

RESOLUTION 57-2018- Councilman Barcomb made a motion to appoint Doug Roether as the interim chairman of the ZBA. Councilman Pritchard seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: To appoint Doug Roether as the interim chairman of the ZBA.

RESOLUTION 58-2018- Councilman Pritchard made a motion to approve a donation from the Town of Knox to the Kiwanis for the Memorial Day Parade. This motion was seconded by Councilman Barcomb. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve the donation from the Town of Knox to the Kiwanis for the Memorial Day Parade.

RESOLUTION 59-2018- Councilman Barber made a motion allow up to \$2,500.00 for expenditures for the Pucker Street Fair from the celebration line item. This motion was seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: To allow up to \$2,500.00 for expenditures for the Pucker Street Fair 2018.

The dates for the Pucker Street Fair are set for June 29, 30 and July 1, 2018.

Councilman Barber would like to get a temporary gambling permit for the Fair. He will check with the NYS Gaming Commission regarding this issue. Supervisor Lefkaditis will check into any local laws that may apply to this situation.

A discussion was held regarding the amount paid weekly to Deborah Liddle for cleaning the Town Hall. A request was made to increase the fee from \$35.00/week to \$50.00/week, retroactive to January 1, 2018. An audience member and Councilman Barber both inquired in this was an appointed position. Supervisor Lefkaditis was unsure of how this position became available, but stated it was never an appointed position, and if this position was treated as a subcontractor no appointment would be necessary. Supervisor Lefkaditis asked Mr. Stout if the Board needed to appoint this position or create this position to move forward. Mr. Stout will create a simple contract, and the Board will re-visit this item next month. The \$35.00 will continue to be paid to Deborah Liddle until a contract is approved.

RESOLUTION 60-2018- Councilman Barcomb made a motion to approve the Supervisor and Clerk reports as presented. This motion was seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve the Supervisor and Clerk reports as presented.

RESOLUTION 61-2018 – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb and seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills including Abstract 14 from 2017 with voucher numbers 416-428 and 432 for the general account in the amount of \$13,550.85 and voucher numbers 429-431 for the highway account in the amount of \$2,837.36 This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract 14- 2017.

RESOLUTION 62-2018 – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb and seconded by Councilman Pritchard to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills including Abstract 2 from 2018 including vouchers 5-26 for the general fund in the amount of \$16,603.65 and voucher numbers 27-40 for the highway fund in the amount of \$18,532.95 This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract 2- 2018.

Public Comment:

Ed Akroyd wanted to let the public know that the traveling Vietnam Wall Memorial will be at Tawasentha Park April 26-29th, 2018. Supervisor Lefkaditis will add this to the March and April agenda as a refresher and will post it on the community sign and FaceBook page.

Rose Pritchard suggested the making of a booklet for the Pucker Street Fair to be sold to the public for a small fee. Vendors would be charged to advertise, and the public would be charged for the booklet. Rose also had a question regarding the availability of land for anyone who wanted to start a business in the proposed district. Supervisor Lefkaditis states it is limited.

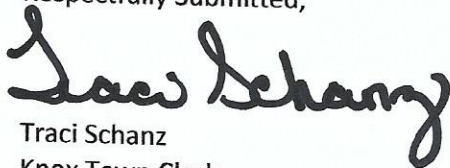
Mr. Virano asked a question regarding business items being kept out of view and in buildings. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated the home occupation reads: "...shall not be any exterior materials and equipment..." Mr. Virano has a problem with this in that he has a lot of problems with the Town of Knox, and Bob Delaney told someone next to him on singer Road that he could have his stuff there and keep it out, there are court papers, and he is getting this straightened out. Many of his problems are legal and have to do with the Town. He has sent emails and would like to know if the town is choosing not to communicate with him. Supervisor Lefkaditis made a decision not to communicate with Mr. Virano. Mr. Virano asked who he should go to when he has a problem, and he was told to bring it to the Town Board who would act accordingly. Mrs. Adriance then asked if there was an email for the entire Town Board, and Supervisor Lefkaditis said he would set one up.

Mrs. Adriance stated there was confusion lately regarding who could go to the transfer station if they were or were not a resident. She read the Waste Disposal Law, and Supervisor Lefkaditis asked Mr. Stout for clarification, and this issue will be addressed in a different way, other than standard operating procedures. This will be a future agenda item. Mrs. Adriance also spoke regarding a flu clinic in the Fall at the Town Hall with Amanda Clark, a pharmacist at CVS. Mrs. Adriance will coordinate dates for September/October and inform Supervisor Lefkaditis.

RESOLUTION 63-2018 – At 9:32 pm a motion was made by Councilman Barcomb and seconded Supervisor Lefkaditis to adjourn the meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to adjourn the meeting at 9:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Traci Schanz
Knox Town Clerk
February 28, 2018